THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 13, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

RETAIL INFLATION AT A 5-MONTH LOW, INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT GROWS

Retail inflation declined to 4.35% in September, mainly due to lower food prices, according to govt data released on Tuesday

FOOD PRICES MODERATE IN SEPTEMBER

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was at 5.3% in August 2021 and at 7.27% in September 2020. The inflation in food basket eased to 0.68% in September 2021, significantly down from 3.11% recorded in the preceding month. For the third consecutive month, CPI inflation stayed within the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance band of 2-6% in September

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT EXPANDS IN AUGUST

- The manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63% of the index of Industrial Production, grew 9.7% in August, data showed
- Mining output during August expanded by a robust 23.6%
- Consumer durables manufacturing increased 8% in August 2021 against a decline of 10.2% in August 2020 | P13

11.5%
THE GROWTH IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION RECORDED IN JULY 2021

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Covaxin safe for 2-plus age group, says expert panel

Bharat Biotech to wait for further approvals

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

BHARAT Biotech's Covaxin can be administrated on adolescents and children as young as two years, an expert panel of India's apex drug regulator has recommended. The final approval by the Drug Controller General of India is expected soon, sources said.

All data related to the clinical trials in the 2-17 years age group has been submitted to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and the subject expert committee, Bharat Biotech said in a statement on Tuesday.

"This represents one of the first approvals worldwide for Covid-19 vaccines for the 2-18 age group," said the company. "We now await further regulatory approvals from the CDSCO prior to product launch and market availability of Covaxin for Children.

Raches Ella, clinic lead of Covid vaccines at the company, said in a tweet that Covaxin has been "reported to be safe and immunogenic" in a paediatric cohort and "the approval in children will help expedite the reopening of schools".

Once the final nod by the Drug Controller General of India comes, Covaxin would be the second vaccine after Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV D to be permitted for under 18 population group in India. Cadila's three-dose vaccine has got emergency use authorisation for use in those above 12 years. For children, the vaccines will be supplied in pre-filled syringes instead of vials, said an official. P3

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT
October 11: 58,62,469 doses
October 12: 46,23,892 doses
TOTAL DOSES: 98,38,02,045

NATIONWIDE	OCT 11	OCT 12
Fresh cases	18,132	14,313
Recoveries	21,563	26,579
Deaths	193	181

KARNATAKA	OCT 11	OCT 12
Fresh cases	373	332
Recoveries	611	515
Deaths	10	11

EXPRESS READ

Night curfew extended till October 25 in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant has issued orders extending the night curfew here till the morning of October 25, as part of Covid containment measures. Prohibitory orders have been issued under Section 144(1) of the CrPC on October 10, prohibiting all movements and activities, except those permitted in the guidelines. The curfew will be in force from 10 pm to 5 am till October 25.

HARMS INDIA'S IMAGE, SAYS PM

"In incidents of similar nature, there are some who see violation of human rights in some case, while ignoring the others. Selective outrage is harmful to democracy. It also harms India's image," Modi remarked

Modi calls out selective fury on rights

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hit out at selective outrage by a section of the people, saying political opportunism causes maximum damage to human rights.

While he did not identify the people who were "weighing violations of human rights on the scale of political gains and losses", his remarks assumed significance in the backdrop of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence. For, the BJP then launched a blistering attack on the Congress for overlooking atrocities against members of the scheduled castes in Rajasthan.

Modi was speaking at the 28th foundation day ceremony of the National Human Rights Commission.

Hours later, the BJP held a presser to show video clippings of violence against members of the scheduled castes in Congress-ruled Rajasthan. Referring to Modi's remarks earlier in the day, BJP national general secretary Dushyant Gautam said his (Modi) anguish is justified since victims of the Rajasthan violence want Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to show similar solidarity with them as he's been doing in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri.

"Since UP is heading for polls, Congress leaders are trooping into Lakhimpur Kheri while ignoring similar atrocities elsewhere," he charged.

The BJP broadside came a day after its top leadership brainstormed its strategy for UP. While the party had earlier hoped that Lakhimpur would be handled locally, the escalating political heat forced the top brass to lead the attack.

The vehicle bay outside the Kempegowda International Airport terminal gets flooded after heavy rain lashed Bengaluru on Monday night | EXPRESS

CLOUDBURST

The IMD rain monitoring station at the KIA recorded **18 cm** of rain between Monday night and Tuesday morning — the highest ever that the Met observatory has recorded since its inception in 2011

Till October 12, Karnataka recorded **98.6 mm** of rainfall against the normal **62.9 mm**

Since the beginning of October, Bengaluru has recorded **181.9 mm** of rain

IMD says the city will receive rainfall for the entire week

HEAVY RAIN WREAKS HAVOC ACROSS CITY, KIA FLOODED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE heavy rain that lashed Bengaluru on the intervening night of Monday-Tuesday caused widespread havoc with many parts of the city experiencing flooding and people spending a sleepless night calling control rooms for help.

The residents of Horamavau were the worst affected. They approached the MLA Byrathi Basvaraj and BBMP engineers for help, but to no avail. "Every time it rains, the roads get flooded and water enters our homes on 2nd Cross Horamavu, Patel Estate. This is because the BWSSB has prolonged its project of laying water and sewage lines. We have been suffering since September last year. We had approached Byrathi Basavaraj, who is also the urban development minister, and he assured us that the problem would be solved. But nothing has been done till now. Our problems increase with every downpour," said Manil Joshua, a resident.

According to the BBMP control room, complaints of water gushing into homes were reported from Kempapura Agrahara, Telecom Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Shankara Nagar, 6th Cross Devi Nagar, Anugraha Layout, Shamanna Nagar, Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli. P2

21 LIVES LOST, SAYS BOMMAI

CM Basavaraj Bommai, who held a meeting to review the rain damage on Tuesday, said 21 people have died due to the downpour from October 1 to 12. P4

BIG HAUL

I-T raids on 3 highway, irrigation contractors unearth ₹750 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Income Tax Department has detected undisclosed income of around ₹750 crore from three major Bengaluru-based contractors engaged in the execution of irrigation and highway projects, the Ministry of Finance announced on Tuesday.

"Of this, ₹487 crore has been admitted by the group entities as their undisclosed income," said the ministry in an official statement. The I-T searches on these contractors were carried out last week on 47 premises across four states.

"During the searches, it was found that these three groups were involved in suppression of their income by resorting to bogus purchases, inflation of labour expenses, booking of bogus sub-contract expenses, etc. The investigation revealed that one of the groups has booked bogus sub-contract expenses in the name of about 40 individuals of no means and unconnected to the construction business. Upon inquiry, these individuals have admitted to the said manipulation," stated the ministry.

According to the I-T Department, while one group of contractors admitted to having indulged in inflation of labour expenses amounting to ₹382 crore, another group has been found to have taken accommodation entries, from non-existing paper companies, to the extent of ₹105 crore, which was admitted by this group.

The tax officials seized various incriminating evidence in the form of physical documents and digital evidence, unaccounted cash of ₹4.69 crore, unaccounted jewellery and bullion worth ₹8.67 crore and silver articles worth ₹29.83 lakh.

Government-run medical colleges too catch faculty data fudge bug

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

ALARMED at reports that government medical colleges have started data fudging to show higher faculty count, the Centre has asked all colleges to share details of vacancies in all departments immediately. Till now, the malaise was restricted to dodgy private medical colleges.

In a letter issued to all government medical colleges in the country on Monday, accessed by this newspaper, the National Medical Commission asked them for these details within 24 hours. There are about 275 government medical colleges in India at present.

The letter said the Union government had taken a serious view of the matter, adding it could figure in a conference Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to have with state chief secretaries. The Commission said its Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) observed that faculty positions in many departments of government medical colleges have stayed vacant for several years.

"The colleges and the institutions for undergraduate, postgraduate and broad and super-speciality courses without proper eligibility qualifications of the teachers," said the letter signed by MARB member G Suryanarayana Raju.

Teachers in some government medical colleges this newspaper spoke to conceded that to tide over faculty shortage, many of them have been calling teachers from other institutions on short deputation.

"Faculty shortage was a major problem during regulatory inspections. Though inspections are happening only during seat enhancement, government medical colleges are struggling to show the required number of teachers and are forced to call them on deputation though they are bound to other institutions," said a senior faculty attached with a medical college in Himachal Pradesh. Another faculty member in UP said the practice was rampant in the state as well. "It is also because many doctors do not want to teach in rural and tribal areas. Besides, a proposal to get private practitioners to teach in medical colleges as guest faculties has not picked up too well," he pointed out.

Domestic flights to fly full from Oct 18

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

FROM October 18, domestic flights can operate without any capacity restriction, the Centre said on Tuesday. Currently, the domestic carriers can operate only up to 85% (of their pre-Covid services).

"After review of the current status of Scheduled Domestic Operations viz-a-viz passenger demand for air travel in terms of the purpose specified in the initial order dated May 21, 2020... it has been decided to restore the scheduled domestic air operations with effect from 18-10-2021 without any capacity restriction," read the order issued by the civil aviation ministry.

With the gradual decline in coronavirus cases, airports across the country are recording heavy rush. In a bizarre incident last week, many flyers reportedly missed their flights due to long lines of passengers at the Mumbai airport.

On October 9, Indian carriers operated 2,340 domestic flights, which is nearly 71% of their total pre-Covid capacity.

Strong quake empties out village in Kalaburagi district

Residents of Gadikeshwara in Kalaburagi district prepare to evacuate their village, fearing constant tremors experienced in their region recently | EXPRESS

OPEN RELIEF CENTRES, CM TELLS OFFICERS

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday held a meeting with officers from the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority and Kalaburagi district administration to get details about tremors in some villages in the district. He asked officers to open relief centres and send a report about the damage to houses to provide compensation.

RAMKRISHNA BADSESHI @ Kalaburagi

THERE was panic at Gadikeshwara village on Monday night when the residents heard a loud explosion and the earth shook violently under their feet within the next few seconds. The men and women ran out of their homes and into the fields in the dark of the night, trying to save themselves.

When the residents returned after some time, they realised that eight houses had collapsed and the walls of their homes had developed cracks. Fortunately, no one was injured.

The strong earthquake that hit the village, which is around 75 km from Kalaburagi city, at 9.55 pm was recorded at 4.1 on the Richter Scale.

Too scared to go back to their homes, the villagers waited for the authorities to arrive and offer help. But no one seemed to care. Around midnight, the villagers blocked the road and staged a protest, demanding that the officials construct makeshift sheds and provide them with blankets to spend the cold night, said gram panchayat vice-president Jaishan Ali Pattedar. The villagers experienced seven more mild tremors on Monday night and two on Tuesday morning. The authorities visited the village only at 10 am on Tuesday, the residents said.

When this correspondent visited Gadikeshwara around noon on Tuesday, lorries, tractors and autorickshaws had lined up the streets to carry people and their household items away from the village to safety. P7

Fresh to home
WEDNESDAY MARKET
Another Wednesday. Another meaty mid-week sale!
Fresh Products | Best Deals | 90 Min Delivery
500g Goat (Curry cut) + 500g Chicken (Curry cut)
₹499
500g Chicken (Curry cut) + 500g Bangda/ Ayala (Cleaned)
₹329
500g Rohu (Curry cut) + 500g Chicken (Curry cut)
₹299
2000+ Products
22 Lakh Customers
100+ Quality Checks
No Antibiotic Residue
No Added Chemicals
Order online at: Freshtohome.com
90 Minute Delivery
T&C Apply. All prices are inclusive of taxes. Offers valid only for today and till stocks last. Images used are for representative purposes only and may differ from the actual products.